

S. RES. 215

Whereas today's youth are vital to the preservation of our country and will be the future bearers of the bright torch of democracy;

Whereas youth need a safe haven from various negative influences such as child abuse, substance abuse and crime, and they need to have resources readily available to assist them when faced with circumstances that compromise their safety;

Whereas the United States needs increased numbers of community volunteers acting as positive influences on the Nation's youth;

Whereas the Safe Place program is committed to protecting our Nation's most valuable asset, our youth, by offering short term "safe places" at neighborhood locations where trained volunteers are available to counsel and advise youth seeking assistance and guidance;

Whereas Safe Place combines the efforts of the private sector and non-profit organizations uniting to reach youth in the early stages of crisis;

Whereas Safe Place provides a direct means to assist programs in meeting performance standards relative to outreach/community relations, as set forth in the Federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act guidelines;

Whereas the Safe Place placard displayed at businesses within communities stands as a beacon of safety and refuge to at-risk youth;

Whereas over 641 communities in 39 states and more than 11,000 locations have established Safe Place programs;

Whereas over 53,000 young people have gone to Safe Place locations to get help when faced with crisis situations;

Whereas through the efforts of Safe Place coordinators across the country each year more than one-half million students learn that Safe Place is a resource if abusive or neglectful situations exist;

Whereas increased awareness of the program's existence will encourage communities to establish Safe Places for the Nation's youth throughout the country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week of March 17 through March 23, 2002 as "National Safe Place Week" and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to promote awareness of and volunteer involvement in the Safe Place programs, and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, events of the day may turn our attention overseas, but it is essential to remember those who are fighting an ongoing battle right here at home. This battle has been raging for generations and consists of fighting to protect this Nation's most valuable resource: our children. Youth are the future of the Nation; they need to be both valued and protected. Sadly, however, as my colleagues know, this precious resource is threatened daily.

I come to the Senate floor today to talk about a tremendous initiative between the public and private sector that has been reaching out to youth for nearly twenty years. Project Safe Place is a program that was developed to assist our Nation's youth and families in crisis. This partnership creates a network of private businesses trained

to refer youth in need to the local service providers who can help them. Those businesses display a Safe Place sign so that young people can easily recognize a "safe place" for them to go to receive help.

In his State of the Union Address President Bush called for every American to commit at least two years or 4,000 hours to the service of neighbors and our Nation. The goal of National Safe Place Week is to recognize the thousands of individuals who work to make Project Safe Place a reality. From trained volunteers to seasoned professionals, these dedicated individuals are working together with the resources in their local communities and through their ties across the Nation, to serve young people. Because of Project Safe Place, this all happens under a well-known symbol of safety for in-crisis youth.

Project Safe Place is a simple program to implement in any local community, and it works. Young people are more likely to seek help in locations that are familiar and non-threatening to them. By creating a network of Safe Places across the nation, all youth would have access to needed help, counseling, or a safe place to stay. However, while the program has already been established in 39 States, there are still too many communities that don't know about this valuable youth resource.

If your State does not already have a Safe Place organization, please consider facilitating this worthwhile resource so that young people who are abused, neglected, or whose futures are jeopardized by physical or emotional trauma will have access to immediate help and safety in your community. To create more Project Safe Place sites in Idaho, the staff in three of my State offices have gone through the training to make them Safe Place sites, and now have the skills and ability to assist troubled youth. In the next five years, Project Safe Place hopes that every child in America will have the opportunity to connect with someone who can provide immediate help by easily recognizing the Safe Place sign.

I look forward to the U.S. Senate passing this resolution and designating the week of March 17-23, 2002 as National Safe Place Week. This action will recognize the importance of Project Safe Place and send a message that we will keep working to protect our children. As we saw following the tragic events of September 11, volunteers truly do make a difference every day, and in passing this resolution, the Senate will be applauding the tireless efforts of the thousands of dedicated volunteers across the Nation for their many contributions to the youth of our Nation through Project Safe Place.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2966. Mr. NICKLES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him

to the bill S. 565, to establish the Commission on Voting Rights and Procedures to study and make recommendations regarding election technology, voting, and election administration, to establish a grant program under which the Office of Justice Programs and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice shall provide assistance to States and localities in improving election technology and the administration of Federal elections, to require States to meet uniform and nondiscriminatory election technology and administration requirements for the 2004 Federal elections, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2967. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. LEAHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2936 submitted by Mr. HATCH and intended to be proposed to the bill (S. 565) supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2968. Mr. DODD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 565, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2969. Mr. DODD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 565, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2970. Mr. DODD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 565, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2971. Mr. DODD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 565, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2972. Mr. DODD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 565, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2973. Mr. DODD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 565, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2974. Mr. DODD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 565, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

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SA 2978. Mr. DODD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 565, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2966. Mr. NICKLES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 565, to establish the Commission on Voting Rights and Procedures to study and make recommendations regarding election technology, voting, and election administration, to establish a grant program under which the Office of Justice Programs and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice shall provide assistance to States and localities in improving election technology and the administration of Federal elections, to require States to meet uniform and nondiscriminatory election technology and administration requirements for the 2004 Federal elections,